

Acceptable Methods of Determining "Flashpoint" of Combustible Liquids

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I. Background:

The Setaflash method, ASTM D3278-73 (Flashpoint of Liquids by Setaflash Closed Tester), has been accepted for a number of years by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) as an acceptable method for determining the flashpoint of combustible liquids. This method has been accepted in both the Hazard Communication Standard issued by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that issued by the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) under the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA).

An ad-hoc committee of the American Society for Testing Materials (ASTM) has been engaged in a program leading to the standardization of methods determining flashpoints acceptable world-wide. Although not provided for in WAC 296-24-33001(15), the Setaflash method of determining the flashpoint of liquids will not adversely affect the safety and health of either employees conducting the tests or the users of the liquids classified by this method of testing.

II. Scope and Application:

This WISHA Regional Directive (WRD) provides guidance to regional consultation and compliance staff when they must evaluate employer compliance with WAC 296-24-33001(15), which provides the acceptable methods for testing various types of combustible liquids for respective flashpoints. This document incorporates the substance of WRD 77-57, which is hereby repealed. The original WRD was in turn based on OSHA Program Directive No. 100-65.

III. Interpretative Guidance:

Can Setaflash Testing Methods be used for determining the flashpoint of combustible liquids?

WISHA Compliance and Consultation staff must treat the use of Setaflash Testing Methods as *de minimis* violations of WAC 296-24-33001(15). Such violations must not be cited.

Frank P. Leuck, Assistant Director
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POLICY & INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT SUBMITTAL FORM
Legislative and Governmental Affairs

Briefly state the subject matter of the Policy or Interpretive Statement:

The Setaflash method of determining the flashpoint of liquids will not adversely affect the safety and health of either employees conducting the tests or the users of the liquids classified by this method of testing. This WISHA Regional Directive declares that such violations must not be cited under WAC 296-24-33001(15).

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Signature of Responsible Official (Assistant Director)

Date WRD, Policy or Interpretive Statement Issued: _____

<p>Please submit this form to the Legislative & Governmental Affairs Office at the end of each month, MS: 44001</p>
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*If you have any questions please contact
Marie Myerchin-Redifer in the Legislative and Governmental Affairs Office, 902-4205*
